

44. (Amended) A driven traction sheave for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car, a counterweight and a plurality of ~~one or more flat~~ tension members interconnecting the car and the counterweight, each tension member having a width w, a thickness t measured in the bending direction, and ~~an~~ a wide polyurethane engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the each tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width w relative to thickness t, of greater than one, wherein the traction sheave including comprises:

_____ a plurality of traction surfaces, each configured to receive the wide polyurethane engagement surface of one of the tension members, each traction surface having a profile that is complementary to the wide polyurethane engagement surface of the tension member, the traction surfaces collectively having sufficient traction with the wide polyurethane engagement surfaces to move the car and the counterweight when the traction surfaces receive the wide polyurethane engagement surfaces and the traction sheave is driven of the tension member.

49. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 44, ~~wherein the traction sheave includes further comprising~~ a pair of retaining rims on opposite sides of the sheave.

50. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 44, wherein the sheave ~~includes a surface for each tension member, and further includes one or more dividers that separate the plurality of traction surfaces.~~

51. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 44, further including a guidance device disposed proximate to the traction surfaces, the guidance device engageable with the tension members to position the tension members for engagement with the traction surfaces.

53. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 44, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~ are formed from a non-metallic material.

54. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 53, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~ are formed from polyurethane.

56. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 44, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~ are formed from a non-metallic coating bonded to the sheave.

66. (Twice Amended) A driven traction sheave for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car, a counterweight and a plurality of at least one more flat tension members interconnecting the car and the counterweight ~~deflected by the sheave~~, each tension member including a load carrying rope and a polyurethane coating encasing the load carrying rope, each tension member having a width, a thickness measured in the bending direction, and a wide engagement surface defined in the polyurethane coating and spanning the width of the tension member, wherein each tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of the width to the thickness, of greater than one, wherein the traction sheave comprises:

a plurality of traction surfaces about which the plurality of tension members is deflected, each traction surface being shaped to accommodate the wide engagement surface one of the tension members, as the tension member is deflected by the sheave the traction surfaces collectively having sufficient traction with the polyurethane coatings of the tension members to move the car and the counterweight as the traction sheave is driven.

72. (Twice Amended) The sheave according to Claim 66, wherein the sheave ~~includes a plurality of the surfaces, one surface for each tension member, and~~ further includes one or more dividers that separate the plurality of traction surfaces.

73. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 66, further including a guidance device disposed proximate to the traction surfaces, the guidance device engageable with the tension members to position the tension members for engagement with the traction surfaces.

75. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 66, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~ are formed from a non-metallic material.

76. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 75, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~are formed from polyurethane.

78. (Amended) The sheave according to Claim 66, wherein the traction surfaces ~~is~~are formed from a non-metallic coating bonded to the sheave.